



**Director of  
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# **National Intelligence Daily**

*Thursday  
1 September 1983*

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**LEBANON: Army Counteroffensive**

*The Lebanese Army succeeded yesterday in regaining control over most of West Beirut's main highways, but street fighting and shelling are likely to continue because Muslim militias appear to have retreated only temporarily into side streets.* [ ]

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According to the US Embassy, armed militia resistance has subsided. The Lebanese Army reports that, in the four days of fighting, 42 soldiers have been killed and 176 wounded. (S NF)

US Embassy officials say there is general calm in the vicinity of the Embassy and in the hotel district, and the US Marines indicate the airport area is generally quiet. [ ]

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President Gemayel yesterday asked Lebanon's sectarian leaders, including Druze leader Walid Junblatt and Shia spokesman Nabih Barri, to join in a national unity dialogue. Junblatt, however, has refused to participate in the talks, and both he and Barri have condemned the Army move into West Beirut. [ ]

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A TASS statement yesterday condemned the "US armed intervention" into internal Lebanese affairs. It said that the USSR is "deeply worried" by this intervention, which "must be ended," and that what happens in Lebanon "is not at all immaterial" to Moscow. [ ]

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**Comment:** Muslim and Druze militias probably will renew their attacks on Army units. The militias also increasingly may target US personnel because they probably believe that US assistance has been instrumental in the Army's performance. [ ]

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The TASS criticism, in effect accusing the US Marines of unprovoked attacks against Lebanese Muslims, is the most authoritative Soviet commentary on the recent fighting in Beirut. The Soviets evidently hope to incite Arab opinion against the US presence and remind Washington that Moscow is following the situation closely. [ ]

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**ISRAEL: Choosing Begin's Successor**

*The Central Committee of the Herut Party is to convene tonight to select a candidate to replace Prime Minister Begin.* [ ]

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The US Embassy reports that the eight Herut cabinet ministers who met on Tuesday and yesterday failed to agree on a successor to Begin because of Deputy Prime Minister Levy's opposition to Foreign Minister Shamir. Shamir met with Levy yesterday to ask for his support, but Levy is pushing his own candidacy and is holding out for a decision in the 903-member Central Committee. [ ]

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Israeli media reports suggest Shamir offered Levy the Foreign Ministry if he would drop out of the race. The US Embassy says former Defense Minister Sharon indicates he will support Shamir. Sharon wants to be appointed chairman of the ministerial committee responsible for West Bank settlements. [ ]

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Labor Party chairman Peres, in a television interview on Tuesday, said he believes a Labor-led government might emerge from the current situation. Labor officials are in contact with dissident members of the government in the hope of luring them away from the present coalition. [ ]

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**Comment:** Although Levy is generally considered in Israel to have significant strength in the Central Committee, Shamir retains the strong support of most of the Herut leadership. [ ]

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If Levy fails in his bid, he almost certainly will emerge as Likud's number-two man. This would give him an important edge in a campaign to succeed Shamir, who is widely regarded as a transitional choice. [ ]

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**WESTERN EUROPE-USSR: Reactions to INF Proposal**

*West European capitals characterize the recent Soviet proposal on INF, included in a letter from General Secretary Andropov, as a small step in the right direction but insufficient to justify delay in NATO deployments.* [redacted]

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Representatives of major West European countries attending the meeting tomorrow in Brussels of NATO's Special Consultative Group plan to present a unified assessment of the proposal. They intend to applaud Moscow's offer to scrap SS-20s as an indication of positive movement. On the other hand, they still consider Moscow's insistence that British and French systems be included in the INF negotiations as the chief impediment to progress in those talks. [redacted]

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A spokesman for the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office on Tuesday said that the proposal is not a fundamental change and that the Soviets are still seeking to maintain a monopoly of INF missiles while preventing the deployment in Europe of any comparable US weapons. Statements by other NATO governments indicate that they view the proposal mainly as propaganda aimed at influencing Western public opinion as the INF talks resume in Geneva next Tuesday. [redacted]

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US Embassies believe the proposal will not affect NATO's position on initial INF deployments in the UK, West Germany, and Italy. They report that Allied governments plan to rely on the intensive consultation process in the Alliance and on the seriousness of Western negotiation efforts at Geneva to maintain enough public support for the scheduled deployments. [redacted]

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**Comment:** NATO hopes to demonstrate its solidarity as well as its commitment to consultation on INF issues in a series of meetings of the Special Consultative Group this fall. The meeting tomorrow is to be followed by one in London 10 days later, and additional meetings are being planned for the capitals of other basing countries.

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Andropov's proposal is unlikely to have much impact on the size of peace demonstrations in Western Europe. Nonetheless, some speakers at peace rallies and some opposition parties in basing countries probably will call on the US to reciprocate with concessions.

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**PHILIPPINES: Possible Violence Ahead**

*The death of a student yesterday following Benigno Aquino's funeral could lead to further violence in the days ahead.* [ ]

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Unrest in the university section of Manila accompanied a citywide "noise barrage" carried out by opposition groups. Press and US Embassy reports indicate that the funeral procession itself passed without incident as government security forces kept a low profile. [ ]

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Embassy sources report that many students had planned to use the funeral to protest the government's human rights policies and to demand President Marcos's resignation. The sources say radicals wanted to reserve strong protests for President Reagan's visit in November but agreed to demands for immediate action. [ ]

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**Comment:** The shooting could easily lead to further violence. Emotions remain high, and opposition groups will almost certainly seek to capitalize on the student's death. [ ]

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The government is likely to maintain special security through at least the end of this month. The government traditionally calls an alert on Marcos's birthday, 11 September, and on the anniversary of the imposition of martial law, 21 September, and opponents of the government almost certainly are planning protests for those days. [ ]

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**PERSIAN GULF: Results of Cooperation Council Meeting**

*Foreign Ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council at their recent meeting in Saudi Arabia reportedly discussed new efforts to deal with the war between Iran and Iraq, plans to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt, and the internal stability of Qatar.* [REDACTED]

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Reporting from US Embassies in the region indicates the war again was the center of discussion. The Ministers agreed to renew efforts to dissuade Iraq from widening the conflict, to try to halt the six-month-old Nowruz oilspill, and to persuade Syria to open the Iraqi oil pipeline to the Mediterranean. [REDACTED]

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A well-placed contact of the US Embassy in Jidda reports that the Ministers agreed to raise the issue of Egypt's return to Arab ranks at the next Arab summit, which is to be held in Riyadh in November. They also decided that Council members—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates—would resume diplomatic relations with Egypt after the summit regardless of opposition from radical Arab states. [REDACTED]

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In addition, the Ministers discussed the security situation in Qatar following the discovery in late July of a small arms cache near Doha. The leaders of the Council states are scheduled to hold their annual summit in Doha in early November. [REDACTED]

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**Comment:** There are no indications that the Council states are any more willing or able than they have been to take action to end or even to influence the conflict between Tehran and Baghdad. They almost certainly will not cut off aid to Syria to force the opening of the oil pipeline from Iraq. Moreover, the willingness of the Council members to reestablish formal ties with Egypt in the face of almost certain Syrian and Libyan opposition at the summit is questionable. [REDACTED]

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The reporting on the arms found in Qatar is vague and contradictory. The arms, however, do not appear to have been intended for an attack on the Council summit. [REDACTED]

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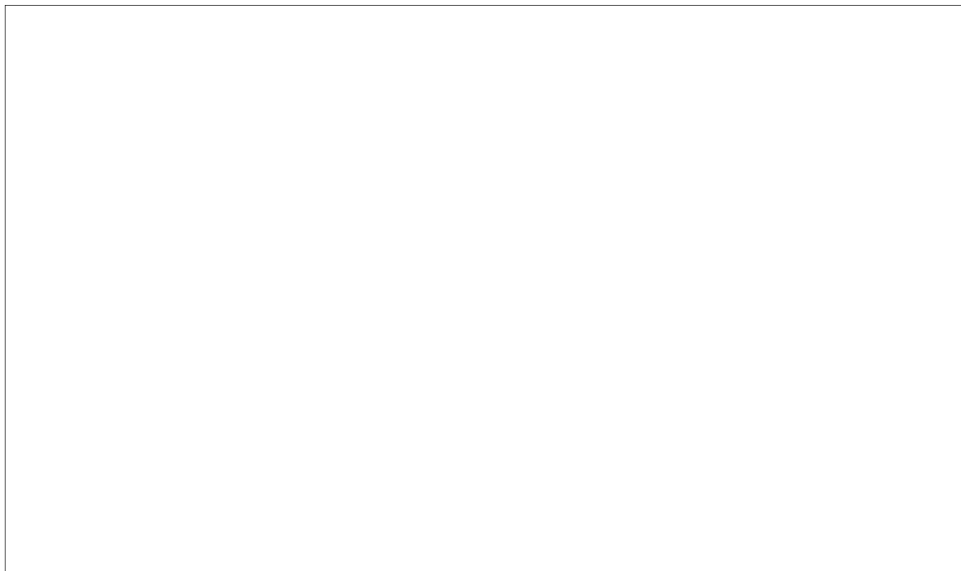
**POLAND: Sporadic Disturbances**

The regime will point to the small turnout marking the third anniversary of Solidarity yesterday—as compared with last year's demonstration—as proof of its firm control and lack of support for the outlawed trade union movement. The US Embassy reports the most serious clashes took place in Gdansk, Wroclaw, and at the Nova Huta steel mill near Krakow. The police showed little restraint in dispersing the crowds, estimated at several thousand in each city, and one Western reporter claims a man died in Nova Huta. The Embassy estimates the boycott of public transportation was 60-percent effective in Warsaw. 

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**Comment:** Union leaders probably will claim the transportation boycott demonstrated public support for Solidarity. Activists may call for more such symbolic acts of defiance as a way of maintaining worker involvement at minimum risk. 

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**PAKISTAN: Unrest Continues**

The US Consulate General in Karachi reports that Army units were deployed on Tuesday to cope with continuing disturbances in four districts of Sind Province and that senior police officers in four cities have been relieved of their duties. Authorities are increasingly concerned that local religious leaders are backing the agitation. The president of a powerful leftist labor union in Karachi offered herself for arrest on Tuesday, and opposition leaders have called a provincewide general strike for Saturday.

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**Comment:** The increased role of the Army, which is composed mainly of Punjabi and Pathan troops, could further inflame nationalist sentiment among Sindhis. Rural religious leaders probably will support the general strike, but urban clerics in Hyderabad and Karachi will not. Although labor is divided, leftist unions may be able to disrupt the port of Karachi and the national steel mill there. If successful, the general strike would encourage President Zia's political foes in other provinces.

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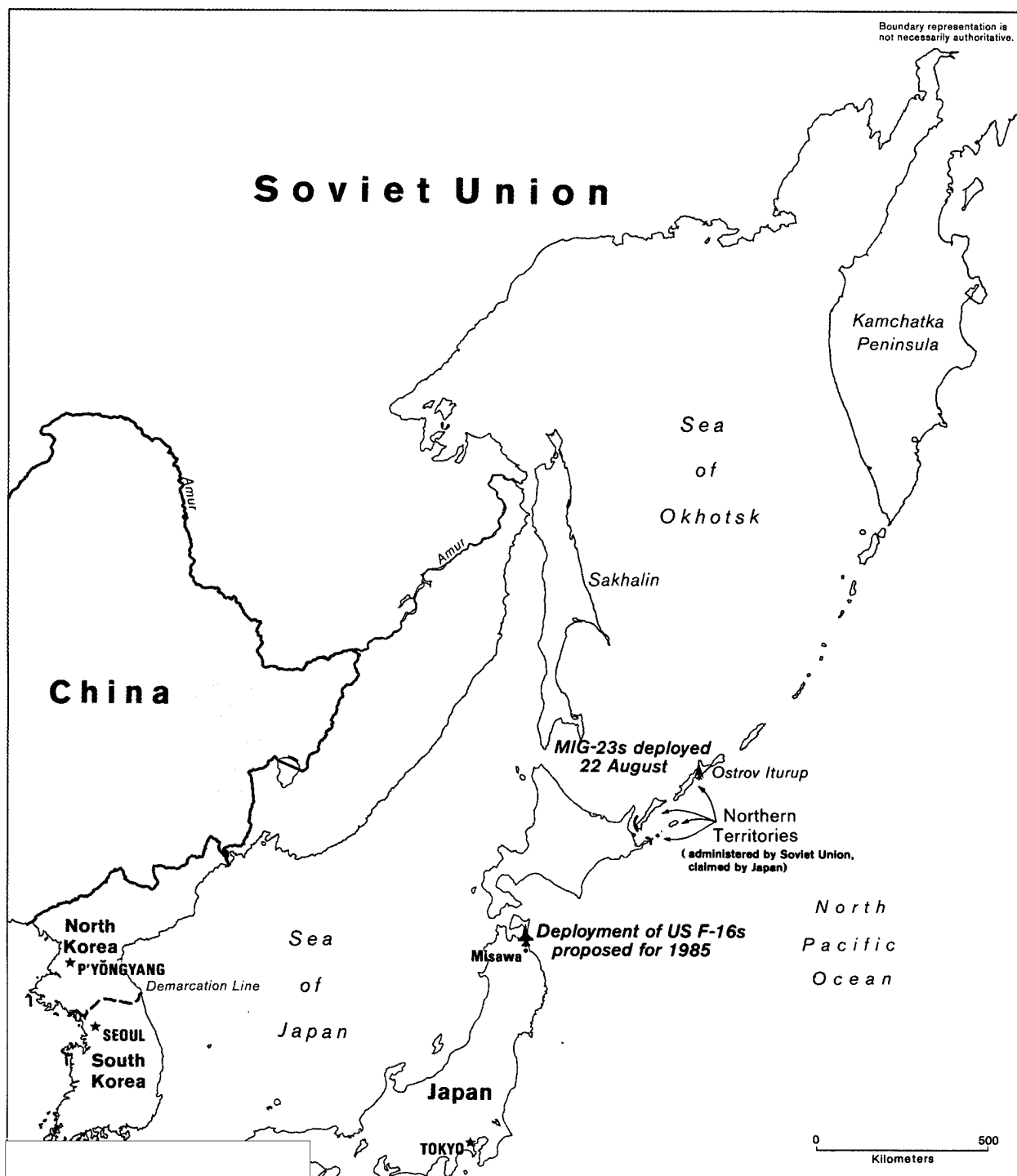
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**USSR-JAPAN: MIG-23s in Northern Territories**

[redacted] Soviet MIG-23 aircraft are stationed on the island of Ostrov Iturup, which is claimed by Japan. A spokesman of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday said Japan will protest the arrival of at least 10 of these aircraft on 22 August, if they remain there. [redacted]

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**Comment:** This is the first assignment of these more advanced aircraft in the Northern Territories. The Soviets have been improving the facilities on Ostrov Iturup for over a year, and MIG-21s were based there from late 1982 until last May. Moscow, however, may describe the MIG-23s as a response to the announcement last fall that US F-16s are to be stationed at Misawa in 1985. [redacted]

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**AUSTRALIA-SOUTH PACIFIC: Nuclear-Free-Zone Proposal**

Australia failed to secure a consensus in support of its proposal for a nuclear-free zone in the South Pacific at the annual meeting this week of the South Pacific Forum. Several of the island nations objected to a provision for free navigation of nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed warships and military aircraft. They restated their "sovereign right" to impose bans on visits by warships. [redacted]

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**Comment:** Australia, which remains undeterred by requests from the US and New Zealand not to pursue the nuclear-zone proposal, apparently aggravated regional antinuclear sentiment. The problem of port bans had been eased a month ago, when Fiji lifted its restrictions on visits by nuclear vessels. Despite the rebuff, the government continues to give strong support to the proposal. Foreign Minister Hayden has served notice that Canberra will try to find a formula acceptable to the islanders before the next session of the Forum next year. [redacted]

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**USSR-SEYCHELLES: Attention to Fuel Storage**

The US Embassy reports Soviet technicians recently arrived in the Seychelles to look into the storage of diesel fuel there. The Soviets are estimating costs of restoring five old naval fuel tanks on an island in Victoria harbor. Defense Minister Berlouis told the Embassy the fuel would be for the Seychelles Navy alone and categorically denied that Soviet ships would refuel at the islands. Soviet combatants frequently have responded to President Rene's requests for a show of support, and Soviet merchant ships have delivered arms to the islands as recently as July. [REDACTED]

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**Comment:** Despite Berlouis's denial, the USSR may be seeking access to at least part of the 20,000-ton fuel storage facility in the Seychelles for refueling its merchant or naval ships. Moscow also might seek to build storage facilities for aviation fuel on the Seychelles. Soviet military transport aircraft refueled in the Seychelles for the first time in February, and they subsequently made several flights to the Indian Ocean and southern Africa area. [REDACTED]

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